

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Commissioner's Office
11 State House Station
109 Capitol Street
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel: (207) 287-3707; Fax: (207) 287-3005
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

February 20, 2024

Senator Joseph Baldacci, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0100

Re: LD 2197, *An Act to Strengthen the Health, Well-being and Academic Success of Children and Their Families Through Increased Community Support of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Maine*

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Department's opposition to LD 2197, *An Act to Strengthen the Health, Well-being and Academic Success of Children and Their Families Through Increased Community Support of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Maine*. This is no reflection on the value that the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Maine provide the community or the importance of the services they provide.

As a general policy principle, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services does not support a special payments to a single provider and not all similar providers. Additionally, the Department lacks an understanding about what the funding is expected to be used for, how it should be allocated, expected reporting or outcomes from the provider, or other details that generally go with appropriations from the state general fund.

Should there be additional information for consideration or any questions for the Committee, we would be glad to engage with you on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne M. Lambrew".

Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew, Ph.D.
Maine Department of Health and Human Services